

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/897,205 Examiner	LENSING, KEVIN R. Art Unit
	Kumiko C. Koyama	2876

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTO-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

- This communication is responsive to 17 September 2003.
- The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-80.
- The drawings filed on 02 July 2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
- Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - All
  - Some\*
  - None
 of the:
  - Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.
- Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
  - The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application. **THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

- A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
- CORRECTED DRAWINGS must be submitted.
  - including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached 1) hereto or 2) to Paper No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - including changes required by the proposed drawing correction filed \_\_\_\_\_, which has been approved by the Examiner.
  - including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No. \_\_\_\_\_.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet.

- DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

- Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449), Paper No. 4/29/2003
- Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
- Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No. \_\_\_\_\_.
- Examiner's Amendment/Comment
- Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
- Other

**DETAILED ACTION**

Acknowledgement is made of receipt of Amendment filed on September 17, 2003.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

1. Claims 1-80 are allowed.
2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The prior art of record Stirton discloses a method comprising forming a plurality of grating structures in a layer of photoresist, each of said formed grating structures being comprised of a plurality of photoresist features. Stirton teaches that photoresist etching process may be performed to further reduce the size of the photoresist features. Stirton also discloses a method comprising illuminating each of said formed grating structures, measuring light reflected off of each of said plurality of formed grating structures to generate an optical characteristic trace for each of said plurality of formed grating structures, and comparing each of said generated optical characteristic traces to at least one optical characteristic trace from the library of optical characteristic traces, each of which corresponds to a grating structure comprised of a plurality of photoresist features having a known profile.

Stirton fails to specifically teach a method for stopping etching process based upon the comparison of at least one of the generated traces and the target traces, a method comprising measuring light reflected off of each of said plurality of grating structures after the etching process is started to generate an optical characteristic trace for each of the plurality of grating

structures and a method comprising measuring light reflected off of the grating structure during the etching process to generate an optical characteristic trace for the grating structure.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

***Terminal Disclaimer***

3. The terminal disclaimer filed on September 17, 2003 disclaiming the terminal portion of any patent granted on this application which would extend beyond the expiration date of U.S. Patent No. 6,383,824 has been reviewed and is accepted. The terminal disclaimer has been recorded.

***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kumiko C. Koyama whose telephone number is 703-305-5425. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 7am-3:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael G. Lee can be reached on 703-305-3503. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0956.

*Kumiko C. Koyama*  
Kumiko C. Koyama  
October 09, 2003

*KDF*  
KARL D. FRECH  
PRIMARY EXAMINER